(c) protests were lodged at the sector commander's level.

Orders for purchase of Westland Helicopters and Sea Harriers

1183. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have of late decided to procure Westland helicopters and more Sea Harrier jump-jets; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the orders placed therefor and the terms of the deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b)

Sea Harrier Aircraft:

A contract has been signed on the 25th November, 1985 with M/s. British Aerospace, U.K. for the supply of 11 Sea Harrier Aircraft together with supporting equipment spares etc. A contract has also been signed with M|s. Rolls Royce, U.K. for some spare engines. The value of the supplies is of the order of about £ 150 million.

Westland helicopters:

There is at present no decision of Government to procure Westland helicopters although a proposal for the induction of such helicopters for civilian use is under consideration of the Ministry of Transport in the Deptt. of Civil Aviation.

Amendment of the British immigration rules

1186. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state?

(a) whether the British Immigration Rules have of late been amended following a European court on Human Rights ruling;

(b) if so, what is the number of Indian men and women awaiting immigration by way of joining their spouses in Britain on the date of enforcement of the amended rules; and

(c) what are the details of the amendment in the context of the rules prevailing prior to the amendment; what was the court's ruling and how far the amendment is in accord with the court's ruling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Approximately 1100 wives and children and 1500 husbands and male fiances were awaiting immigration from India for joining their spouses in Britain on the date of enforcement of the amended rules.

(c) Under the Immigration Rules prior to the amendment, while a man who is a Commonwealth national and who has a right to permanent stay in the United Kingdom could bring in a foreign wife/fiancee, even though he himself is not a British citizen, the same facility was not available to a lady who is a Commonwealth national having a right of stay in the United Kingdom. Only those ladies who are

British citizens were allowed to bring in husbands/fiances.

The European Court of Human Rights held that the U.K. Immigration Rules violated the Human Rights Convention by discriminating between the sexes. The Rules were changed on 26-8-1985 to bring the provisions for the admission of husbands and wives for settlement into line with the European Court Verdict.

The amended rules will allow women legally setted in the U.K., irrespective of their citzenship, to bring in their husbands. However, before they are given entry clearance, such spouses are required to satisfy some additional conditions. The requirements under the old rules, including the requirement to satisfy the Entry Clearance Officer that the marriage was not entered into primarily for immigration apply to wives also. The New rules have also strengthened the provisions relating to maintenance and accommodation.

Negotiations for Purchase of Seaking Helicopters Sea Harrier Aircraft and HMS Hermes from Britain

1187. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been negotiating for the purchase of Seaking helicopters, Sea Harrier aircraft and the naval aircraft carrier HMS Hermes from Britain; and

(b) whether any argeement has been entered into with Britain in this regard if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) No negotiations are being conducted with the U.K. for the purchase of Seaking helicopters or of HMS Hermes although an offer for the later has been received.

A contract has been signed on the 25th November, 1985 with M/s British Aerospace, U.K. for the supply of 11 Sea Harrier Aircraft together with supporting equipment, spares etc. A contract has also been signed with M/s Rolls Royce, U.K. for some spare engines. The value of the supplies is of the order of about £150 million.

Self-Immolation by an Ex-Serviceman in Delhi

1188. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an ex-serviceman recently set himself on fire in Delhi on account of failure of the authorities concerned to settle his pensionary benefits from the army; and

(b) if so, what is the result of the inquiry, if any, conducted by Government into the matter and the action taken for non-settlement of his claim leading to his self-immolation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) An Ex-Servicemen, (Gunner) T.N. Balu, is reported to have set himself on fire recently in Delhi. He was demanding pension for his service in the Army. However, as his total qualifying Military service fell short of the minimum service required for earning pension, he was not entitled to it. He was entitled for service gratuity only. The same has been paid to him and this was clarified in the reply to his petition.

Recall of Security Guards from the Hague

1189. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some security guards were recalled to India from the Hague;